

ancestor was a Minuteman in the Revolutionary War. His great uncle fought at San Jacinto. Another great uncle was a founder of Lawrence, Kansas, and ran an underground railroad out of his barn. Hank's father was a childhood friend of Jesse James and Harry S. Truman, in Independence, Kansas.

With this family background, it is no surprise that Hank studied history as an undergraduate at the University of Saint Thomas and received his master's degree from the University of Houston. He taught history at Lamar High School in the 1950s, where he had such a profound effect on his students that many entered public service, becoming attorneys, judges and legislators. His students encouraged him to run for office, and he first stood for the Texas House in 1959 and was first elected in 1961. He served three terms as a Democrat in the Texas House, then switched to the Republican Party in 1965, a radical move in Texas at that time, and won three more terms as Senator from District 15.

In 1972 Hank ran for governor of Texas and came within 200,000 votes of victory—an amazing accomplishment in a state that had not elected a Republican Governor since Reconstruction. Hank's race helped strengthen the Republican Party in Texas and set the stage for Republican Mark White to be elected Governor. He also was the largest private contributor in the effort to elect Ronald Reagan as President in 1980.

Hank believed deeply in limited government and fiscal responsibility. He sought to limit federal power and to rein in deficit spending both at the state and federal level. His was a moral and ethical view, grounded in the history and culture of America. Hank also was devoted to his family—his wonderful wife of 56 years, Kathleen Downey Grover, and his children, Bernard Downey, Bridget Cushing, Joseph Courtney, Hilary Helen, Laetitia Jane, and Patrick Fleming (who served on my staff).

Mr. Speaker, as we complete the Nation's business today, let us do so in honor and in memory of this great American who dedicated his life to upholding the values on which America was founded and whose legacy will live on through his family, his friends and the many students whose lives he influenced. Let us pay our last respects to Henry Cushing "Hank" Grover.

COMMENDING U.S. COAST GUARD
OPERATIONS POST-HURRICANE
KATRINA

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to add my voice to those applauding the outstanding disaster response work of the U.S. Coast Guard.

My district is fortunate to host one of the Nation's three Coast Guard highly trained oil spill and hazmat response teams, the Pacific Strike Team located at Hamilton Field in Novato. We are also proud of Coast Guard training center Petaluma, located in the rural Two Rock area. Men and Women from both bases had important roles in the aftermath of Katrina.

For the Pacific Strike Team, quick response to emergencies is normal operating procedure. On the night of August 29, Commander Anthony Lloyd and a dozen or so members of the team flew out of California to join the two other units of the National Strike Force at the forward operating base in Alexandria. In the following weeks they participated in the largest oil cleanup spill since the Exxon Valdez, containing oil spills from 8 or 9 refineries on the Mississippi and the Gulf. With oil spill cleanup almost completed, the Pacific Strike Team has joined the Louisiana environmental officials and the U.S. EPA in an effort to remove hazmat materials scattered along Louisiana's broad coastal zone. To date this unified command, combing the wetlands and bayous, have collected about 1 million commercial 55 gallon drums.

In an emergency, the Coast Guard also relies on its personnel stationed at bases and at sea . . . everyone lends a hand.

Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma, commanded by Captain Brian Marvin, is no exception. Nine Two Rock coasties have recently returned from a 30 day rotation in the Gulf where they performed a variety of duties which exemplify the diverse mission of the Coast Guard. Two chaplains helped with spiritual support and stress management both for hurricane victims and responders; a doctor helped to mend bodies at a relief center in New Orleans; an officer was sent to be in charge of a relief boat command and control center; another officer was sent as a planner; two petty officers served in law enforcement, repairing aids to navigation and participating in search and rescue operations; and another petty officer conducted incident debriefings and helped develop support systems for personnel out in the field.

All these activities were conducted with the highest professionalism, dedication, and compassion—Coast Guard hallmarks. They deserve the highest praise and ongoing support for their mission.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3199,
USA PATRIOT IMPROVEMENT
AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF
2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, four years ago I voted against the bill that became the "USA PATRIOT Act," more commonly called simply the "PATRIOT Act."

I agreed that our law-enforcement agencies needed increased power and more tools to fight terrorists. But I also thought then—and still think today—it was imperative for Congress to proceed carefully in order to protect Americans' civil liberties. However, I took some comfort from the fact that a number of the most troublesome provisions of the new law were temporary and would expire at the end of this year unless Congress acts to renew them.

The imminent expiration of those provisions is why the House considered this legislation in July, and provides the impetus for the conference report before us today.

I think the value of such "sunset" provisions is shown by the debate on that bill and today's debate on the conference report. It is evidence that requiring Congressional action to renew agencies' authorities can and does result in ongoing Congressional oversight and periodic reconsideration.

In July, I voted against the bill because it would have made permanent no fewer than 14 of the 16 provisions of the original "Patriot Act" that were covered by the law's "sunset" clause—as well as other new authorities provided by last year's bill to reform the intelligence community—and under the bill the other two would not have faced a "sunset" for a full 10 years.

However, at the same time I noted that there was considerable support in the other body—by Senators on both sides of the aisle—for provisions that would improve on this legislation. And I hoped and expected that once the Senate had acted and the conference was completed, the result would be a measure that deserves the support of all Members of Congress.

Unfortunately, after careful review I have concluded that this conference report, while an improvement over the bill the House passed in July, is still so seriously flawed that I cannot support it.

The conference report does not do enough to reduce the potential that the authority it gives to the FBI and other agencies could be abused or misused in ways that intrude on Americans' privacy and civil liberties—a potential that has led more than 300 communities and seven States, including Colorado—governments representing over 62 million people—to pass resolutions opposing parts of the Patriot Act.

The Senate, to its credit, did a better job than the House in responding to the concerns that prompted such resolutions, while still providing ample tools that the government can use to work against the threat of more terrorist attacks, at home and abroad.

I could have supported enactment of the bill as passed by the Senate. That is why I voted for the motion to recommit. But I cannot support this conference report as it stands.

COMMENDING WWII VETERAN
HARRY THOMPSON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Harry A. Thompson, a veteran of World War II and a WWII Prisoner of War. Harry is a longtime resident Wolfe City, Texas, and for the past fifty years has been working on his memoirs of his experience as a POW in Germany. His book, entitled Patton's Ill-Fated Raid, relates how he fell into enemy hands on the second day of the Battle of the Bulge and the events that transpired thereafter.

Chief Warrant Officer Harry Thompson was a Battalion Personnel Officer assigned to the 924th Field Artillery Battalion of the 99th Infantry Division in Bullingen, Belgium, when the German Army broke through the American lines during the Battle of the Bulge, and he was captured. He was taken to Hammelburg,

the German POW camp for American officers where General Patton's son-in-law also was being held. As a result of the ill-fated raid to liberate the POWs in Hammelburg, all POWs were evacuated from camp and were forced to walk a treacherous journey of 241 miles in subzero weather across Germany before their liberation on May 2, 1945.

Mr. Thompson's account of his harrowing experiences at Hammelburg and during this long march is a sobering reminder to readers of the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform. In his introduction he wrote, "The fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge has passed. World War II seems ancient history to my grandchildren as much as the Civil War seemed to me when I was growing up. This narrative is for my family as much as for the public, a memoir of a horrible time, the likes of which I hope they will never have to live."

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend Harry Thompson for publishing his memoirs. He says that he hopes that other Veterans and POWs will share their stories and "that together we can record what it is for America to be at war, what it is to serve in the armed Forces of the United States of America and, after service during wartime, what it means to salute the flag as well as why we, as Veterans, sometimes have a tear or two when we see a patriotic ceremony or parade."

Harry Thompson has served our Nation in two important ways—by his service and sacrifice during World War II, and by the publication of his book that will be part of the history of America for all to read. I am honored to pay tribute today in the House of Representatives to this great American and Veteran of World War II and to thank him for his service to our Nation.

TO RECOGNIZE THE DEDICATION
OF FORT FILLMORE, NEW MEX-
ICO IN HONOR OF FIRST LIEU-
TENANT JOHN SALOPEK

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of Fort Fillmore, New Mexico in honor of First Lieutenant John

Salopek, as celebrated in the biography by Gerald Carson, "Big John", or 1Lt John Salopek, to whom Fort Fillmore is being dedicated today, was born on September 17, 1921 in Croatia. At age eight, he arrived in the United States, settling in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Salopek received a Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) commission in June 1944. He was assigned to a platoon leader position in 1st Platoon, Company G of the infamous 42nd "Rainbow" Division, 7th US Army. Salopek's unit arrived in Marseille, France in December, 1944. The unit fought in the Ardennes-Alsace Campaign near Gernsheim, France. On January 5, 1945, Salopek's platoon was attacked by German panzers, and most were taken prisoner of war (POW) the next day. Salopek was taken to a headquarters command post of the elite Waffen-Schutztaffel (SS). Later, Salopek was transferred to Hammelburg Offizierlager XIIIIB (Oflag) POW camp of 1,500 officers, to include the son of Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin and the son-in-law of General Patton. On March 26, 1945, General Patton ordered Task Force Baum to Hammelburg to rescue the pawns. Only 300 of the 1,500 were rescued, to include 1LT Salopek. Two days later, Task Force Baum was captured by Germans. Most were either killed or again taken POW. Salopek evaded capture and fled to a German farm house near Richenbuch, where he remained until American troops liberated the Hammelburg POW camp on April 5, 1945. The following year, 1LT Salopek, returned to his family's farm in Mesilla, New Mexico.

Salopek's father left over 300 acres of pecan farms to John in the Las Cruces area. Salopek spent the remainder of his life working his land.

1LT Salopek was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze, and Purple Heart for action in the Ardennes-Alsace Campaign. He died on April 15, 2002."

TRIBUTE TO LATE JIM DUFF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with regret and deep sadness that I rise to honor James "Jim"

Duff, a constituent from Rialto, California who passed away on December 11, 2005. I cannot begin to express how saddened I am by the passing of my friend Jim. All men die, but not all men really live; we can honestly say that Jim lived to the fullest. He was a model citizen, veteran, community leader, father, grandfather, and an extraordinary man.

Jim Duff was born and raised in Bonham, Texas but lived in Rialto, California for many years until his passing. Jim was a remarkable example of courage and sacrifice. He joined the Air Force and fought in World War II and Vietnam. Jim was a dedicated soldier who risked his life in the line of duty. For instance he was part of Project Ivy, the famous first test of a hydrogen bomb at the Eniwetok atoll. Nevertheless, one of his proudest accomplishments was Operation Fiddles, an effort to deliver food to innocent victims of war.

After 25 years of service in the military, Jim retired in 1970 to enjoy retirement with his lovely wife of 55 years, Mrs. Doris Duff. Jim and Doris met in Bonham, Texas where they grew up and went to school together. Aside from Doris, his sister Mary Fae Kamm, his son Bobby Douglas Duff, and two grandchildren. Sequoia and Madrone, survive Jim. His dedication and courage live in his family; his son is a successful business owner in Duncanville, Texas and his deceased daughter Carol D-Lynn lost her life while rescuing her children from a dangerous riptide.

Since retiring from the Air Force, Jim had become a fixture of the community. He was Commander of Post 8737 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for fourteen years and held office within the organization at the statewide and national level, even serving as National VFW Post American Commander. In the Veterans of Foreign Wars, he dedicated himself to help fellow veterans by volunteering twice a week without fail at Loma Linda Veterans Hospital. Jim helped veterans fill out paperwork, file claims, and fight for the health care rights they deserve. I knew him well as a member of my Veterans Advisory Board.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore wish to offer the condolences of a grateful Nation to the family of Mr. James Duff, an irreplaceable man who will not be forgotten.